

PASSENGERS TELL  
DROWNING TALE  
OF FIRE AT SEA

04 Panic Stricken Men and  
Women Locked in State-  
rooms and Stokers Held  
at Posts by Guns

By Associated Press  
New York, March 18.—A thrilling tale of fire at sea with 104 panic stricken men and women locked in their staterooms and stokers held at their posts under the threat of drawn pistols, was related by passengers of the United States liner Potomac when she arrived here today from Bremen.

It was a tale of Yankee pluck and heroism—a skipper's refusal to give up his ship until every hope had been abandoned, and of his acceptance of the "thousand to one chance," which turned a threatening catastrophe into a merely harrowing experience.

The fire was discovered at midnight March 2, a few hours after the Potomac, with Capt. William McLean in command, sailed from Bremen on the coast of Holland into the North sea. He had been steaming along on a moonless sea when suddenly, with sound of warning, the Spanish and Filipino stokers bounded from the hold and started for the lifeboats.

Officers, with drawn revolvers, ordered them to return to their posts. The fire had become an inferno of smoke, with flames billowing from the adjoining compartment where the stokers were holed up. The fire was spreading rapidly, and the Potomac was now a target for the enemy's guns.

Chief Engineer E. M. Garland, alerted by the stokers' shouts, rushed to the engine room, and with streams of hose was fighting the flames.

At 1 a. m. the fire had become so serious that the ship was forced to stop. At 4:30 Captain McLean ordered the engines stopped, and the Potomac was now a target for the enemy's guns.

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Stubbins Watts,  
Fiddling Miller,  
Lies Dead at 84

By Associated Press  
Kansas City, Mo., March 18.—Stubbins Watts, the fiddling miller of Dallas, is dead. Stubbins Watts was 84 and the mill on Indian creek, 12 miles south of here, where, man and boy, he had ground corn for 10 years, was even older. It was built by his father, Anthony Watts, in 1820 and Indians and pioneers carrying long rifles and wearing coonskin caps were its first customers.

They had real dances in those days. Stubbins Watts used to say, "Folks came from 20, 30, 50 miles away and we always danced all night, and Christmas and times like that the dance went on all next day."

"We played good tunes, too, in those days. 'Leather Britches,' and 'Turkey in the Straw' and 'Give the Poor Fiddler a Dram' were the names of some of 'em. They'd make your feet tingle."

He heard one of these foreign fellows in a concert. Guess he was a fiddle musician, but it didn't sound like fiddle to me. Sounded like an old hog stuck under a gate."

In early days the miller was famous as a fiddler and no dance was possible in the neighborhood without him.

A son, Edgar Watts, will continue to run the mill.

The pioneer was a relative of Daniel Boone.

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DEFERRED TO  
DEFEAT AGAIN

Mondell to Confer With Harding  
Tonight to Obtain  
Views on Bank Loan  
Provision

By Associated Press  
Washington, March 18.—The solidiers' bonus measure was referred to President Harding tonight. Representative Mondell of Wyoming, republican House leader, announced today that he had requested a conference with the executive for tomorrow evening after the return of Mr. Harding from Florida. He said he would be accompanied to the White House by such other members of the House handling the bonus legislation as the President might wish to consult.

The specific purpose of the proposed conference was not disclosed by Mr. Mondell, but it was reported that he would seek to obtain the President's views on the compromise bill with its bank loan provision in lieu of a cash bonus, as well as his opinion as to whether the measure should be called up Monday under a suspension of the rules, as most House leaders desire.

Mr. Mondell's announcement followed a conference between Speaker Gillett and 27 republican House leaders arranged primarily to discuss the question of procedure in considering the bill. Mr. Gillett announced afterwards that he would not make up his mind before Monday morning as to whether he would entertain a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Such a motion would block all amendments and also prevent a motion to recommittal of the bill with instructions to the ways and means committee.

The conference in the speaker's office lasted for more than an hour and was behind closed doors. Mr. Mondell was delegated to be the official spokesman and made this statement:

"We discussed the question of the bonus in all its phases, fully, freely, and good-naturedly, but did not reach any definite conclusion or make any definite arrangement."

Chairman Forney, of the ways and means committee, said he had nothing to add to that statement.

"I want to call up the bill just as soon as possible," he said. "It's going to be passed anyway. I don't think we will change the crossing of a 't' or the dotting of an 'i'."

Representative Linberger, of California, a former service man, who holds a petition bearing a sufficient number of signatures to bring before a party conference for next Tuesday evening, had a conference with Mr. Mondell, but declined to say what had transpired.

Mr. Linberger is withholding the petition from the committee to Chairman Tower of the House republican organization, explaining that he hoped it would be possible to achieve without a conference the things he and other signers of the petition expected to accomplish through a party meeting. When he circulated the petition it was the purpose to have the whole bonus question threshed out by the republican members.

ENEMY ALIENS WHO  
SERVED U. S. TO GET  
INSURANCE BENEFITS

Washington, March 18.—Enemy aliens who served the United States during the World war are entitled to the benefits of the war risk insurance act under a recent interpretation of the act by the veterans bureau, according to instructions issued by the director, Mr. Forney.

"According to this decision," Director Forney said, "any claimant who is an enemy alien and who has been discharged from the service on the basis of being an enemy alien, and whose service was honest and faithful, shall be entitled to the benefits of the war risk insurance act."

It is well known, the veterans bureau disallowed insurance benefits to those beneficiaries residing in enemy countries and classified enemy aliens. "Peace had now been declared between these countries and the United States and it is very proper and fitting to make up on these aliens and their payments as soon as possible."

STILL WORKING ON  
JURY FOR ARBUCKLE

By Associated Press  
San Francisco, March 18.—The closing of the first week in the trial of a manslaughter charge against Roscoe C. (Fatty) Arbuckle today found court and counsel still busy with the task of jury selection. The regular trial is to begin on Tuesday, but the choice of a jury of 12 alternates not only necessitated the examination of a number of other persons, but an additional panel of 25 was required.

The first alternate was selected quickly after the opening of today's session, but the remaining talesmen either looking for a better chance of being selected or for a better chance of being selected.

A new panel, as ordered for Monday, was finally selected and the trial was finally adjourned.

The striking herd first imperiled the lives of three school children crossing the street. Patrolman McManis grabbed the two little girls and a small boy and carried them to the shelter of a railroad watchman's shack.

After the steers had been separated and the children released, the herd was driven in different directions.

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600,000 TON MINER TO CUT WORK  
ON APRIL, IS PRESENT OUTLOOK

Woman Walking in Her Sleep  
Falls Into Well With Baby  
In Arms---Child Is Drowned

Hamilton, March 18.—(Special.)—Last night about 10 o'clock William H. Whitehead, who lives near Huxar, was alarmed by his wife calling for help, and he rushed into the house. He found her, who was in the well, and he tried to pull her out. She was holding a baby in her arms, and the baby was drowned.

MERIDIAN SUFFERS  
HEAVY FIRE LOSS

Meridian Chair and Furniture  
Company Is Destroyed.  
Loss \$125,000

Meridian, March 18.—(Special.)—Fire early today destroyed the Meridian Chair and Furniture Company, buildings and contents, while a falling wall crashed the James Peden auto repair shop and water and smoke materially damaged the large stock of goods of the Meridian Wholesale company, adjoining buildings, the total loss being estimated at \$125,000.

The loss is said to be practically covered by insurance. The fire originated in the Meridian Chair and Furniture Company building from unknown cause and had gained uncontrollable headway before the alarm was sounded. Owners of this property estimate the loss on the building at \$20,000 and the stock of furniture at \$40,000.

The owners of the Rogers Candy company estimate their loss at \$25,000. The loss on the stock of candy is estimated at \$10,000.

The contents of the auto shop were saved before the building was destroyed by falling walls, and the loss to the stock of the Meridian Wholesale company cannot be determined for some days, but it is said that it will be heavy. The property destroyed was located on Front street in the main business district.

WITNESS AND LAWYER  
THREATEN TO FIGHT

Lancaster, S. C., March 18.—A threatened personal encounter in open court between Frank H. Barrett of Augusta, Ga., witness for the state, and Claude N. Sapp of Columbia, S. C., of counsel for Charles B. Jones, banker and lawyer, on trial charged with breach of trust and misappropriation of funds was averted last night when the city sheriff stepped between the two men.

The incident formed a dramatic climax to the day's proceedings, during which four witnesses were introduced by the state. Barrett was under cross examination and after a series of clashes with the examining witness, the latter declared himself angry and resented certain remarks of the witness and the two apparently were about to exchange blows when the sheriff interfered.

COX DIES IN FLORIDA

Troy, March 18.—(Special.)—George H. Cox, late of Georgia, Fla., who was formerly secretary of the board of commerce and rotary club in Troy, died there Thursday. Mr. Cox had been ill for some time, almost ever since he left his home in Troy to take up his duties in Georgia.

MOB SLIGHTLY DAMAGED

Aniston, March 18.—(Special.)—The home of W. Bosworth, sixteen street and Moore avenue, was slightly damaged by fire Saturday morning. The blaze started from a light bulb and was extinguished by firemen who were hurriedly summoned.

NO ARREST MADE

Gadsden, March 18.—(Special.)—The evil deeds of this city have been on their good behavior all this week and not a single arrest has been made by the police since the week-end. The jail doors have stood open all week and there is not a single prisoner in the jail and no cases to be tried.

KEEP OUT OF POLITICS

Mexico City, March 18.—Catholic priests and clerics in Mexico have again been warned against mixing in politics in a letter published recently by Jose Maria y del Rio, archbishop of Mexico. The warning was prompted by the threatened expulsion of Jose Maria Sanz Cerda, a Spanish priest, for alleged activity against the Obregon administration.

RETAILERS IN RUSSIA

Moscow, March 18.—Retail business in certain lines is increasing like wildfire all over Russia. In Moscow, alone in one month, 1,000,000 pairs of shoes were sold. The average annual sale for shoes in the city is about 1,000,000 pairs. As the daily sale amounts to 20,000,000 to 40,000,000, the tax is being paid.

Age-Herald to Give First Radio Concert

The first public radio concert ever given in Birmingham will be presented by The Birmingham Age-Herald Tuesday evening, beginning at 7 o'clock, on the fifth floor of The Age-Herald building. The concert is free and everyone is invited to attend.

There will be three very interesting musical numbers on the program, which will be broadcast by radio from Pittsburgh at 8 o'clock eastern time. T. Walter Weisman, bird man of the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph, will open the program at 7 o'clock with a lecture on "Our Native Birds."

CONGRESSMEN TO  
BE IN BIRMINGHAM  
ON MARCH 26

Special Cars to Be Detached  
Here and Party Leave  
Next Day for Gorgas  
and Shoals

Washington, March 18.—A tentative schedule for the congressional delegation comprising members of the House military and Senate agriculture committee, who will personally inspect the government properties at Muscle Shoals and Gorgas, was made public today by J. D. Rodgers, sergeant at arms of the House, who is making arrangements for the trip in co-operation with Senate officials.

Unless the itinerary is changed later, the party will leave Washington at 10 o'clock Saturday evening, March 25, and arrive in Birmingham at 10:30 p. m. Sunday night.

The special cars, detached at Birmingham Monday morning and the party will leave there at 9:35 a. m. for Parrish. After a day there inspecting the Gorgas plant the delegation will go to Sheffield for two days stop-over to inspect the Muscle Shoals project, returning to Washington Friday morning.

Chairman Kahn of the House committee conferred today with Chairman Norris of the Senate committee and afterwards announced that the departure Saturday night had been changed to Sunday night at the request of Senator Norris.

Later Senator Norris said that there had been a misunderstanding between him and Mr. Kahn but that he had made no request that the trip be postponed. Another conference between the two members followed and it was then explained that the original itinerary would be followed.

Chairman Kahn immediately announced that the trip would be postponed to Sunday night at the request of Senator Norris. He regretted that he had made an erroneous announcement to the press.

PROTECTING NEGRO  
Precautions Taken to Prevent Possible  
Kidnaping

Toronto, March 18.—Rev. William E. Guy, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal church, today arranged for adequate police protection for Matthew Bullock, negro, whom Canada refused to turn over to the authorities of North Carolina for prosecution on a charge of attempted murder in connection with a race riot.

The Dominion declined to honor the extradition request across the border for several days. The negro, Bullock, had declined to send special witnesses to Canada. Later there became current reports that threats had been made to kidnap the negro and take him back south.

Bullock's father has displayed evident anxiety since the threats were reported. He is constantly with his son when the latter is not working at his job at the Union railway station.

FARMERS LYNCH NEGRO

Crawford, Miss., March 18.—An unidentified negro was lynched by a mob of about 200 farmers in this section a few miles outside of town Friday night, according to information received here today. Following an attack on the wife of a well-known farmer of this county, the young woman fought off the negro until her screams brought help. The negro escaped, but was run down with blood hounds about eight miles from the scene of the crime.

WOULD PENSION MISS. GORGAS

Washington, March 18.—A bill giving a monthly pension of \$100 to the widow of former Surgeon General William C. Gorgas in special recognition by Congress of his work for the United States in the Gorgas campaign against yellow fever was introduced today by the Senate pension committee.

DEPUTY SHERIFF SLAIN

Chattanooga, March 18.—Deputy Sheriff George Morton of Walker county, Georgia, was shot to death at the loading station of the Durham Coal and Iron company at Pittsburg, Ga., today by George and Ralph Barker, both under trial years of age, and alleged moonshiners.

GREEKS RELEASE ITALIAN SHIP

Rome, March 18.—The Greek government, complying with protests from Italy, has released the steamship Abazia which was seized by a Greek war vessel a few days ago on the ground that it was carrying contraband of war for Turkish nationalists. It was reported. The report caused general satisfaction here as it was understood that the Greek foreign minister expressed regret and admitted that Greek ships were wrong in stopping and searching Italian steamers.

GENERAL STRIKE IN ITALY

Rome, March 18.—General strike was proclaimed today in all the ports of the Italian kingdom as an act of solidarity with the port workers at Naples, who declared a 24-hour strike today. The Southern Federation was precipitated by the refusal of the workers to allow non-union members to be employed on the docks. No disorders had been reported up to late this evening, but it was feared the strike would seriously affect commercial activities.

Connecticut Bereft of Fame  
Which Came With Trilobite

Norwalk, Conn., March 18.—It looked for awhile as if Norwalk was about to write a new chapter into the geological history of the United States, when a layman last month discovered near an old quarry what was found to be the perfect remains of a trilobite.

Librarian "Franklin Trilobite" as the fossilized remains of "King Crab," who ruled the waters of the earth millions of years before the advent of man. It was thought that the discovery might throw bright gleams on the extent of animal life in North America in the days when trilobites were in vogue.

Plans for Evacuation  
of Mines Already Under  
Way, President of  
International Union  
Announces

By Associated Press  
New York, March 18.—Six hundred thousand union miners in the anthracite and bituminous fields will quit work April 1 unless some unforeseen solution of the present wage controversy is offered in the meantime, John L. Lewis, president of the international organization of United Mine Workers, announced today.

Plans for evacuation of the mines already are under way, Mr. Lewis said. In the event of a walkout of crews of pumpmen, engineers, firemen, watchmen and helpers will remain at their posts to prevent flooding of the mines and maintain the properties, he said. He estimated that 1,000 men would remain on duty in the anthracite and 3,000 in the bituminous fields for such purposes.

Final orders for withdrawal of the men will be issued by the general policies committee of the union at Cleveland or Chicago, probably next week, it was said, effective in case operators and miners fail to arrange a new working contract before April 1.

The order to suspend operations in the anthracite field April 1 already has been issued by the miners' general wage council in session at Shamokin, Pa. An arbitration committee of eight composed of operators and miners will meet here Tuesday to discuss a new wage scale for this field.

Mr. Lewis asserted, because of the operators' refusal to meet with the miners in accordance with the terms of their last contract.

MINERS' WAGES SHOW  
GREATEST INCREASE

New York, March 18.—The National Industrial Conference board tonight issued a preliminary statement on the increase in wages paid in the anthracite coal industry, declaring that actual earnings of workers under the present agreement with operators are more than 100 per cent higher than before the war—a greater increase than that received by wage earners on railroads and in manufacturing and employment remained fairly steady, the report said.

The investigation covered the period from 1914 to 1921. In 1914, the last half of October, 1921, and included 54 companies employing 34,514 men and operating 176 collieries, with a production in 1920 of 54,649,338 tons.

The investigation shows, the report says, that the average hourly earnings of all wage earners were 27.3 cents in 1914 and rose to 72.8 cents in October, 1921, an increase of 162 per cent.

Will Train Infantry  
Troops at McClellan

Washington, March 18.—(Special.) Gen. John G. Pershing, commanding general of the army, in letters today to Senator Underwood an "Representative" of the House of Representatives, Alabama district, indicated that as Camp McClellan, near Aniston, had been selected as the training camp for civilians of the Fourth army area, he would oppose the reported plan of the war department to transfer infantry trainees to Camp Benning, near Columbus, Ga.

As infantry trainees will outnumber civilians in other branches of the army, members of Congress have been alert in efforts to checkmate General Pershing's letter was most cordial in its expressions regarding the value of Camp McClellan for training purposes.

DEADLOCK CONTINUES  
IN OBENCHAIN JURY

Los Angeles, March 18.—The deadlock in the jury in the case of Mrs. MacDonnell, prosecutrix, charged with the murder of Dr. Helen Kennedy, continued tonight, and at 9:20 o'clock the nine men and three women jurors, both under trial years of age, and alleged moonshiners.

PROBE COMMITTEE RECESSES

Jackson, Miss., March 18.—The committee of the Mississippi house investigating charges of "pernicious lobbying" and "obstruction" by Gov. Lee M. Russell against what the governor characterized as "outlawed" fire insurance concerns, held a short session today, questioning two witnesses briefly and adjourned over the week-end with an announcement that the hearing would be resumed Monday.

EXPLOSION ROCKS  
Tank Containing 10,000 Gallons  
Gasoline Lets Go With  
Roar Heard for Miles

Memphis, March 18.—Hollywood, a Memphis suburb, was rocked late today by the explosion of two tanks of gasoline at the plant of the Royal Refining company. A number of employees are reported to have sustained minor injuries or burns, but no fatalities occurred, as almost all the employees of the plant had left the grounds before the explosion occurred. The force which followed the explosion is still burning, but is under control.

The principal explosion occurred when the fire reached a 32,000 gallon gasoline tank, which had been partially emptied, and which company officials said did not contain more than 10,000 gallons of gasoline, let go with a roar which could be heard several miles. The big tank collapsed in moments, later, the foundations having given way. The blazing oil spread in all directions, but only a few small buildings were destroyed, the main part of the plant being saved.

Efforts of firemen were confined to saving nearby buildings and another storage tank which contained 20,000 gallons of fuel oil.

The fire originated with the explosion of a wagon tank which was being filled. The driver of the tank, who can give no explanation as to the cause of the explosion, was killed, some distance, but was only slightly bruised. A smaller gasoline tank also caught fire and the blaze jumped to the big storage tank, which exploded.

Officials of the company tonight were unable to give any estimate of the damage. Residents of the neighborhood fled from their homes, fearing that the entire suburb would be destroyed by the series of explosions.

MEET, OLD FRIENDS  
"The Gumps" in colors every Sunday in The Age-Herald. Others are "Gasoline Alley," "Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sawyer."

Score of Senators and  
Many Issues Are Drawn  
Into Cross Fire of  
Argument

TREATY FRIENDS  
AND OPPONENTS IN  
ALL-DAY BATTLE

Washington, March 18.—The whole field of controversies centering about the arms conference was reviewed anew in the Senate today during an all-day debate on the four-power Pacific treaty.

For the first time since early in the week the treaty's supporters joined battle directly with its opponents, and a score of senators and fully as many issues of the treaty fight were drawn into the running cross fire argument.

Senator Robinson, democrat, Arkansas, started the field day of oratory with a speech supporting his amendment to the treaty. He was seconded in the attack by Senator Johnson, republican, California, who asked why the Franco-Japanese alliance, as well as the Anglo-Japanese alliance had not been terminated by the four-power pact, and later Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, joined in with an assault on the Shantung settlement as an example of the sort of diplomacy which he said the United States should not associate itself with.

When the discussion drifted to the naval limitation treaty and its fortifications, Senator Charles McNary, republican, Washington, defended the conference as a real peace accomplishment and when the Shantung agreement was assailed Senator Leonard, republican, Wisconsin, read portions of the Shantung treaty to support his argument that the conference had produced a great deal of real benefit to China. Prepared addresses supporting the four-power pact were made by Senators Jones, republican, Washington and Capper, republican, Kansas.

The manner in which the treaty was negotiated, the charge that insufficient information had been supplied to the Senate, and the inclusion of outside powers in Pacific conferences involving their interests all were among the questions brought into the debate. One new issue was introduced by Senator Shields, democrat, Tennessee, who declared that the British ambassador, Sir Auckland Geddes, had been quoted in a speech in Los Angeles as virtually saying that a war in the Orient had been averted by negotiations of the new treaty. Senator Johnson immediately had been making speeches to Californians in support of the treaty and Senator Robinson declared that it was the duty of the Senate to prepare to attack American possessions in the Pacific if it would be hard for him to support either the four-power or naval treaty.

The outburst of discussion dampened the hope of some members of the Senate who had hoped to lay the treaty aside for a week in order to give attention to legislation. Tonight it was considered likely by the leaders that interest would be sufficient to prevent the treaty from going practically without interruption until a final vote is taken under a unanimous consent agreement on Friday.

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The principal explosion occurred when the fire reached a 32,000 gallon gasoline tank, which had been partially emptied, and which company officials said did not contain more than 10,000 gallons of gasoline, let go with a roar which could be heard several miles. The big tank collapsed in moments, later, the foundations having given way. The blazing oil spread in all directions, but only a few small buildings were destroyed, the main part of the plant being saved.

Efforts of firemen were confined to saving nearby buildings and another storage tank which contained 20,000 gallons of fuel oil.

The fire originated with the explosion of a wagon tank which was being filled. The driver of the tank, who can give no explanation as to the cause of the explosion, was killed, some distance, but was only slightly bruised. A smaller gasoline tank also caught fire and the blaze jumped to the big storage tank, which exploded.

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